

FOREWORD

During the past several decades the need for detailed information on crayfishes has grown rapidly. This is especially true of guides for identification and distribution. Biologists working in rare and endangered species programs, conservation planning, water quality, biodiversity analysis, phylogeography, biochemical systematics, and other subdisciplines are paying much greater attention to crayfishes than ever before. Thus, there is a steadily increasing need for authoritative guides to serve this growing audience. Among the most useful and comprehensive tools designed to meet this end are state-level monographs and atlases. The following atlas is the first of its kind to provide maps showing the distributions of North Carolina crayfishes arranged by each of our 100 counties. We are also in the process of preparing for publication a comprehensive, illustrated monograph, **The Crayfishes of North Carolina.**

Suzanne A. Cooper

John E. Cooper

CAVEAT: All records are based on database entries as of 2006. Since our current understanding of North Carolina crayfish taxonomy is incomplete, some of the species designations presented in the legends may seem cryptic. Questions about such designations should be addressed to: John.Cooper@ncdenr.gov